



SOUTH COAST AIR QUALITY MANAGEMENT DISTRICT PRESS RELEASE

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Violation Issued to Animal Rendering Plant in Vernon, Calif., for Failing to Comply with Rule Requirements to Reduce Odors

DIAMOND BAR—The South Coast Air Quality Management District (South Coast AQMD) today issued a Notice of Violation (NOV) to Baker Commodities, Inc. (Baker) for failing to enclose certain rendering operations, failing to employ best management practices, and for permit condition violations under the agency’s Rule 415—*Odors from Rendering Facilities* and Rule 2004 – *[RECLAIM] Requirements*.

South Coast AQMD Rule 415 requires facilities that conduct rendering of animals and animal parts to operate odorous processes within either a permanent total enclosure or a closed system to reduce potential odors in nearby communities. Rule 2004 requires facilities that participate within the RECLAIM program to comply with all operating conditions in their air quality permits.

The facility, located at 4020 Bandini Blvd., in Vernon, Calif., converts animal by-products collected from meat processing plants, supermarkets, and butcher shops into materials that can be used as animal feed or other uses.

Baker previously received NOVs for not processing material within four hours required by Rule 415 in June 2021, September 2021, and January 2022. South Coast AQMD will continue to conduct odor surveillance near all rendering plants and respond to public complaints.

After an NOV is issued, it is referred to the South Coast AQMD’s General Counsel’s Office for final resolution. NOVs can result in civil penalties. If no settlement is reached, a civil lawsuit may ultimately be filed in superior court.

More information on South Coast AQMD’s ongoing activities related rendering plants in the City of Vernon can be found at: <http://www.aqmd.gov/home/news-events/community-investigations/rendering-plants>

South Coast AQMD is the regulatory agency responsible for improving air quality for large areas of Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside and San Bernardino counties, including the Coachella Valley. For news, air

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